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## Recap breakfast

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# INPORTNEWS

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**■ NIAGARA EMS:** Change aimed at decreasing response times

## Mobile paramedic unit approved for Wainfleet

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI  
QMI Agency Niagara

**THOROLD** — Wainfleet's long paramedic response-time woes will get a little help after all.

Regional council's 25-2 vote to OK a mobile paramedic unit for the township belied the testy debate over it last week. The two-person unit is aimed at improving response times that are up to 4½ minutes more than the region's target.

But when St. Catharines Coun. Brian Heit rallied against the two new full-time employees and \$285,000 needed to get the unit going, councillors lined up to jump to the township's defence.

"Does it cost money? Of course it does," said Welland Coun. Peter Kormanos.

"Wainfleet is by no means some small cabin occupied by a hermit 200 miles west of Attawapiskat," he said.

"It rots my socks when I see

small communities with only one representative here ... get knocked around, beaten up, pushed around, and quite frankly being crapped on and dismissed as if they were somehow less important than any other community."

But Heit, who along with St. Catharines Coun. Ronna Katzman cast the only votes against the program, said the expense could hurt the region.

see **NIAGARA EMS** | page 2



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Wainfleet's long paramedic response-time woes will get a little help after all. Regional council OK'd a mobile paramedic unit for the township. The two-person unit is aimed at improving response times that are up to 4½ minutes more than the region's target.

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## upfront

## ■ MAILBOX MOVES

## 'This is just plain stupid'

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Canada Post can soon expect a letter in the mail.

In wake of the federal agency's rural mail safety review, Port Colborne has decided to put in writing its concerns and the concerns of its residents in hopes of getting some answers.

Several constituents have raised complaints with the safety audit, which has required 126 local homeowners to have their roadside mailboxes moved.

The changes are meant to make delivery of rural mail safer for carriers, but some residents are concerned their own safety will be impeded should they be implemented.

Each mailbox was reviewed on an individual basis and several have been flagged to move closer to the roadway.

Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters could not see the logic in the moves, particularly for homes on Lorraine Rd. where residents have been up in arms on the issue.

When the first snowstorm hits the city, "those boxes are done," she told council last week, raising concern about the proximity of passing snowplows.

"It just doesn't make a lot

## BY THE NUMBERS

**1,174** mailboxes were assessed in Port Colborne  
**21** will be moved to community mailboxes (kiosks).  
**126** were slated for relocation  
**700,000** rural mailboxes across the country have been assessed by Canada Post since the safety audit began in 2007.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Port Colborne resident Richard Phillips has been told he will have to move the mailbox on his Lorraine Rd. property following a rural mail safety review conducted by Canada Post.

of sense to me." The safety review includes criteria such as volume and type of traffic, the posted speed limit and width of the road's shoulder.

Butters said she'd be "hard-pressed" to see more than a handful of cars travelling down Lorraine Rd. in a day — and most of those would be the street's residents. With such little traffic, she wonders why the changes would be deemed necessary.

"The residents say this is just plain stupid ... and it is."

A Canada Post official

has agreed to come to Port Colborne and review a few cases in the Bethel area. Butters is hoping the homes on Lorraine Rd. can be added to the inspection.

She asked that city staff conduct its own review and asked that the city voice its concerns directly to Canada Post.

"Mr. Mayor, I think it's time for you to intervene," she told Vance Badawey. "They're our constituents... Canada Post's customers. They deserve better than this."

Ron Hanson, the city's director of engineering and

operations, said he's "not sure there's a lot of moves" in regards to what the city can do to aid its residents.

"I don't see a lot of appeal process for the homeowner," he said, adding Canada Post provides information on why the move must be made, but nothing on how to appeal its decisions.

Badawey asked staff to collect the addresses and names of affected residents along with their concerns so a comprehensive letter can be sent to Canada Post.

He asked that the letter

also include the city's concerns regarding liability and the safety of its employees and residents if the boxes are moved closer to the road. If damages occur during the city's plowing process, the city is generally liable.

Badawey said the letter should be sent out by the end of the week at the latest as residents are under tight deadlines to comply before their mail delivery is suspended.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca  
 Twitter: @mfirthTribune

## ■ NIAGARA EMS

## 16 minute response desired

FROM PAGE 1

"People in rural communities don't get the service levels that cities get," he said.

He said with council looking to make cuts elsewhere, the paramedic program represented extra spending. He suggested looking at other ways to provide the service and pitched taking paramedics from Port Colborne and putting them closer to Wainfleet.

"This doesn't solve the problem, folks," he said. "It's a Band-Aid treatment for half the day."

The price tag for the program will be offset next year by increased funding from the province.

The region's goal is to have an ambulance on scene in rural areas within 15 minutes and 59 seconds 90% of the time. Medical officer of health Val Jaeger said only Wainfleet isn't meeting that goal.

Wainfleet is the only Niagara municipality with no dedicated EMS resources.

Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati said the new unit is needed.

"They're not even asking for any preferential treatment," he said. "They're scratching their way to the middle."

The new "community response unit" will roam Wainfleet 12 hours a day, responding to medical calls and determining what additional resources are needed.

Lincoln Coun. Mark Bylisma and Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn both brought up the possibility of training firefighters with more advanced paramedic skills.

Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs said the town's 50 firefighters are volunteers. She said they have the same paramedic training as other firefighters but they're not full paramedics.

"It's not about luxuries, it's about lives," she said.

# portraits

■ **AGRICULTURE:** Piles of paperwork, unpredictable weather take toll on Pelham's growers

## Family farms fighting for survival

MARYANNE FIRTH  
inPort News Staff

PELHAM — With unpredictable weather, long hours and plenty of paperwork, there are no shortage of pitfalls faced by the fruit farmers of Pelham.

And although challenges may come by the bushel, farmers' love for their lifestyle and desire to keep family tradition alive keeps the industry afloat despite shaky times.

"It's been really rough this year, the worst experience we've had," said Beth Secord of Matthews Farms in Ridgville.

The Ellingham St. farm was hit hard this season by unconventional weather.

"We had freak warm weather in March, then a cold snap that killed the blossoms," said Secord, the farm's owner and manager.

The summer's drought offered yet another hurdle to overcome.

"We were blessed with a 20% crop. Some of my neighbours had nothing," she said.

Despite the hardships presented this season, Secord, who has been manning the farm for 30 years, remains "optimistic for the future" of farming. Campaigns such as the 100-kilometre diet have been encouraging Ontarians to



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Sarah McGrath, of Williams Orchards, stands among some of the fruits and vegetables available at the Pelham St. fruit stand.

eat local — a trend she hopes to see continue in the years to come.

"In my little pocket of the world, I think we're progressing — just not fast enough," she said of local support of the industry.

Secord said she gets great support for her produce, particularly at Pelham Farmers'

Market.

"I like to think we're moving in the right direction," she said.

The closure of Ontario canneries, however, has been a major setback for small farmers in the province, she added.

Adding a processing facility to help bring in further income is just what Cherry Country Connection in Ridgville did about 18 years ago.

"It was a way for us to diversify," owner Chuck Jensen said of his Tice Rd. farm.

"There are less and less processors out there."

Though processing has been happening on site at Jensen's farm for nearly 30 years, red tape put in place by the government has made it increasingly difficult to stay afloat.

"With all the paperwork we have to do, it's getting harder and harder," he said, sharing fears all those extra hurdles will eventually "put the small guys out of business."

Now, there are so many forms to fill out and data to collect that the farm has even con-

sidered hiring someone solely for that job — but the operation is just too small to handle the extra hire, Jensen said.

He believes there will be less and less small farms in operation in the future.

"Unless you grow up with it, there's not a lot of incentives," he said of the farming life, adding many of the farms now in existence are passed down through generations.

Joe Hoizan is one of those rare farmers who did not grow up in the rural lifestyle.

Nineteen years ago he traded his job as a sewing machine mechanic in Montreal for the role of fruit farmer in Ridgville.

"I did not know a thing. Not even how to turn the tractor key," he said with a laugh.

But hard work and dedication paid off. Hoizan and wife, Teresa now run the successful Town and Country Farm on Canboro Rd.

Despite the farm's popularity, Hoizan's children, who are pursuing other careers, are not

the farm's specialty, they also sell other fruits and vegetables.

"It's better if you have a little variety," Williams said.

Sam Ifody knows all about the importance of variety.

Though he doesn't grow fruit at Holo-Maple Farms in Ferwick, he does sell it there and at local farmers' markets. He found it necessary to branch out and offer locally-grown fruit at his Church St. stand to keep up with his competition.

"We do it to bring in more people. You have to bring in stuff to have a stand. You need variety. We all have to do that."

Despite the success of his sixth-generation farm, Ifody believes the future offers a "bleak outlook" for farming in Ontario.

"What hits us the most are imports," he said, adding while he doesn't oppose imported produce in the cooler months, he believes only local produce should be in stores during the harvest season.

"It's definitely hurting the farmers."

"We get no support from the federal and provincial governments for agriculture," Ifody said, scolding the upper tiers for supporting other industries and leaving farmers in the dark.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: @mfirth Tribune



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Joe Hoizan, of Town and Country Farm, picks fresh apples from a tree to stock his Canboro Rd. fruit stand.



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Sarah McGrath and Carol Williams, of Williams Orchards, stock fresh fruit daily at the Pelham St. fruit stand.

# INPORT NEWS

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inport.news@sunmedia.ca

Ken Koyama, publisher, general manager

Dave Johnson, InPort News senior reporter

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## ■ ourview

### McGuinty's successor

It's an open secret that McGuinty has been eyeing the exits for some time. He probably kicks himself every day that he didn't head out two years ago when his legacy might have been intact.

Since then, the hits to said legacy just keep coming. For example, it's easier to find a drink of illegal raw milk than a Liberal in rural Ontario these days. And the teachers of the province, once McGuinty's best friends, are abandoning him in droves, since the premier threw their interests to the wolves of debt reduction.

Until now, McGuinty never met a raise, a perk or a benefit he wouldn't bestow on teachers, giving away the farm so often to them and others that it's belied being the province to the point where it faces a deficit of \$13 billion and a debt north of \$260 billion, an increase of \$110 billion on McGuinty's watch.

Add to these and other issues a general lack of principled leadership and you can easily imagine McGuinty strolling into the sunset past rows of noisy wind turbines, with pit bulls nipping at his heels.

The timing of McGuinty's departure is anybody's guess, but it'll happen as sure as you'll find ticks on a ewe. So the identity of his successor becomes the question.

Unfortunately for the Grits, the field is small and the choices worrying.

Finance Minister Dwight Duncan's name frequently is mentioned as a possible replacement but that won't, or certainly shouldn't, happen. There's no way he can avoid carrying the can for Ontario's brutal financial mess.

Likewise, Energy Minister Chris Bentley would be weighed down by the wind turbine fiasco, just as Education Minister Laurel Broten would carry the animosity of the education sector into any leadership contest.

Health Minister Deb Matthews also has dealt with more than her share of scandals, but seems to have been able to escape much of the lingering stench, because they were clearly the work of her predecessors.

With such limited choices among current cabinet ministers, what are the chances for past McGuinty lieutenants to return to the fray?

Which brings us to a man we all love to hate, George Smitherman.

In spite of the fact pretty much everything he touched in government turned to a pile of expensive mush, he's known for nothing if not brass. There's every chance he might try to ride the comeback trail.

jmerriam@bmts.com

## ■ COLUMN

# Take time to unplug and unwind

When it comes to everyday tasks, people rely heavily on technology.

It has become a great source of gaining knowledge, providing fast help in emergency situations, and makes it possible to keep in touch with loved ones whether you're apart for a day, or apart for a month.

Today's society has become obsessed with owning the latest must have gadget, even when it's out of their price range.

When Apple comes out with the iPhone 3000, they suddenly introduce the iPhone 4000, which is 7 times thinner and somehow more genius than the one that was released ten minutes ago. This sends a message to consumers that not only is it OK to be selfish, but it also teaches people to depend on their electronic devices.

While there is nothing wrong with wanting to be up to date with today's technology, it becomes a problem when you drive halfway to your destination, only to turn back as soon as you realize that you forgot your cell phone, iPad,



Michèle Pressé

**SMALL TOWN GIRL  
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laptop, etc. The truth is that you do not need these tools every minute of every day.

Have no fear... This doesn't mean that you don't have to go Amish and spend your days turning butter while making a fire by rubbing two sticks together. In fact, if you want to ditch the paper pound cell phone with the attached antenna for something more modern, no one's going to judge.

But if you're the type of person who falls asleep with your phone in your hands and wakes up in the same position every night, then there's a problem.

It's important to be "unplugged" from technology every now and then. Not too long ago, people maintained relationships

and friendships by spending time with each other rather than texting every fifteen minutes. But when you depend on your handheld devices to do everything for you, you lose sight of reality.

If you really want to "recharge your batteries," then leave them behind. When you and your best friend go on a hike, leave your iPhone behind.

There's no need to exploit how adorable and spontaneous you are by uploading five pictures of your bumpy selves donned in plaid and flashing peace signs in front of rocks while "enjoying nature." At least not every time. OK?

There's nothing wrong with wanting to capture memories of the things you do in life, but if you have to rely on Facebook updates and Instagram photos to remind you of the wonderful things you've done, you're missing out.

So now what?

Don't go and throw all of your battery operated things in the trash. Just use them less and with caution. When you're constantly glued to a screen, you forget what's right in front of you.

## ■ readers' views

### Foresight on solar panels

I have met Doug Toepff several times. She is a delightful lady and I have enjoyed debating 'green energy' with her, particularly solar power and 'a solar panel system on every home.'

Whilst I do not know if every individual homeowner wealthy enough to install a solar system on his/her own roof will ever time recoup their investment and perhaps even lower their energy costs, I certainly can't see why they shouldn't try if they decide to install such a system and if they can afford it.

I do believe that she promotes solar energy so strongly because she genuinely believes it is necessary in order to combat 'global warming' and promote a safer environment.

What I do have a problem is with the misinformation in her recent letter when she states that the solar panels will "... help pay for the complex..." Whilst this is a nice idea she did not explain very clearly just whose money will be helping to pay for the complex.

Far from being "in the forefront of progress," Welland is merely doing what local governments have always done: promising progress by spending your tax dollars. If indeed the solar panels on the complex will contribute energy to the grid to supply 70 homes then any financial return Welland receives from

selling excess energy to the grid will be financed directly by either your increased household hydro bills or tax subsidies paid by you, put in place under the Green Energy Act.

Your tax dollars paid for the complex, they have paid for the solar panels, and if they actually do produce excess power that goes back into the grid it will only be your tax dollars buying that excess energy that just may allow your Welland politics to claim how successful the solar system on the complex is.

The entire solar industry in Ontario only survives by unrealistic tax subsidies imposed by the Green Energy Act as the FIT (Feed In Tariff) program.

Currently in Ontario, after over three years of green solar energy, the government website cannot even quantify solar energy. It is classified as "other" and produces less than 0.5% of Ontario's energy needs and yet still receives enormous subsidies, all paid for by your tax dollars.

You all thought wind energy was a scam? Solar is an even bigger scam.

Andrew Watts  
Wellfleet

### Third strike for Hudak?

Ontario Progressive Conservative Party Leader Tim Hudak says that the "union bosses" bought the NDP victory in the Kitchener-Waterloo byelection.

This is an insult to the voters of that riding. Was it those nasty union bosses who got out and knocked on doors during the campaign, or should some credit be given to the rank-and-file members who are involved enough to want to ensure that Mr. McGuinty did not get his coveted majority?

Here's the reality, Mr. Hudak. The K-W riding had been Progressive Conservative for more than two decades and in the last general election the NDP finished a distant third. The electorate was angry and fed up with the McGuinty Liberals. The election was voters to lose, and that's what happened. The voters soundly rejected both Mr. McGuinty and you.

Last week's humiliation was the second one in a span of about a year. In the last general election, the PCs had a two-digit lead in the polls only a couple of weeks before voting day. Mr. Hudak decided to attack job training for "foreign workers" in a province that welcomes immigrants and the talents they bring, this was disastrous.

Will the PC party give Mr. Hudak a third strike before declaring him out?

A brief look at Conservative blogs online show that the knives are out and pointed at his back already. Perhaps it's time for him to leave gracefully and hope that someone else can revive the party.

David Fowler  
Wellfleet

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■ **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:** Badawey says wellness centre still on track for Oct. 20 opening

# Lake Erie mayors serve up recaps for breakfast

SARAH FERGUSON  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A rehash of current events was served up by Wainfleet and Port Colborne mayors April Jeffs and Vance Badawey during Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce's quarterly breakfast last week.

The main item on Jeffs' agenda was this summer's hog fire. Although hog fires are normally left to die out on their own, the mayor, said this time was different because it affected many people.

Ministry of Natural Resources FireRanger crews were called into battle the fire with the approval of township staff, Wainfleet's fire chief, city officials from Port Colborne and Welland and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

"It was heartwarming to see

“We would like to develop a critical and acute care pathway that build on the work we have already completed.”

Vance Badawey

such teamwork,” Jeffs said.

The first-term mayor also made mention of Niagara Region plans to put a community paramedic in Wainfleet. The plan needs council approval, but Jeffs said she's hoping to have a licensed and equipped paramedic in the township who, through unable able to transport patients, could provide emergency medical care until ambulances arrived and identify major service issues in the community.

Jeffs also congratulated volun-



Badawey



Jeffs

teers for hosting another successful Marshville Heritage Festival on Labour Day weekend.

Wainfleet's fall fair kicks off Thursday, Sept. 20, with a War of 1812 theme.

During his turn in front of breakfast eaters, Badawey focused on health care. He said South Niagara Health Care Corp. — a not-for-profit corporation formed in response to Niagara Health

“It was heartwarming to see such teamwork.”

April Jeffs

System's hospital improvement plan — is improving access to local health care. This includes local physician and community engagement, assigning a Community Care Access Centre case manager to all practice providers in Port Colborne, the implementation of a screening tool that was developed by the Local Health Integration Network to identify high-risk or frail seniors for use at all Port Colborne clinics, and developing a health literacy program.

Badawey said the interdisciplinary Care Team, an initiative of the local corporation, has “physicians engaged, excited and

hopeful” that excellent care can be provided in south Niagara. He said the key is finding programs that are already available but may not be at capacity, thereby using very little Health Ministry funding.

“We would like to develop a critical and acute care pathway that build on the work we have already completed,” he said.

Also in his report, Badawey said the Vale Health and Wellness Centre will be ready for its Oct. 20 opening, with finishing touches beginning in November.

“This is when out partners will come in to begin their work,” he said referring to the YMCA and Junior B Pirates setting up at the arena. He said the centre will be “a hub for the entire community” offering more than 240 programs throughout each year.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

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InPort News Staff

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■ GROW-OP GREENHOUSES: Wainfleters suggest property be bulldozed

# Neighbours want marijuana farm bulldozed

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

**WAINFLEET** — Residents living beside a property twice bused by police because of large-scale marijuana-growing operations want township council to take action to prevent similar activities in the home and greenhouses.

Leonard Charlebois and Liz Stryker were both before council recently to talk about 43634 Hwy. 3, the scene of an \$11-million pot bust on July 25.

The property, just west of Smith Rd., was formerly known as 53634 Hwy. 3, but was changed to 43634 Hwy. 3 during Wainfleet's re-addressing program last year.

In March 2005, between 5,000 and 6,000 marijuana plants, estimated at that time to be worth between \$5 million and \$6 million, were seized from the property's cucumber greenhouse complex.

Both Charlebois and Stryker

want to see the home and associated greenhouses torn down by the township. They did not want to see a third marijuana grow-op on the property.

Charlebois' main concern is for the safety of his family and that of nearby residents and civil servants such as building officials, firefighters and police.

"Homes that have these illegal operations, the properties go downhill. The home and greenhouses need major repairs ... there's 10 acres of weeds out there. This is a shame," he said.

Charlebois also told council he's worried about potential health hazards from exposure to the grow-ops.

"We're becoming known as the grow-op capital of Ontario," he said.

Stryker fears for the safety of her family and neighbours as well. She said Wainfleet council needs to take a stand against those who blatantly



Supplied photo  
From this Wainfleet greenhouse, Niagara Regional Police seized more than \$11 million in marijuana on July 25.

disregard the law.

"Wainfleet is a great place to live and we'd like to keep it that way."

She, like Charlebois, wants to see the property bulldozed.

Mayor April Jeffs said the township can't just bulldoze a property, it can only be demolished if there is an unsafe building order on it.

She said police discovery

of a large-scale multi-amphetamine lab in Wainfleet a couple of years ago sparked discussion about what to do with grow-ops and meth labs. But things died down on that front, she added.

Township CAO Scott Luey said building and fire codes can be enforced on properties where there have been grow-ops, but in terms of making homes structurally and environmentally safe.

"There are timelines set on that work and if they're not met, we can go in and do the work."

Any work done by the township would have to be paid by the property owner and it could be levied through property taxes.

Ald. David Wyatt sug-



Jeffs

gested council look at regular inspections of Wainfleet greenhouses.

"I don't think a legal owner would deny us access ... the illegal ones would," he said.

As a septic system issue still simmers in the township, the mayor reminded Wyatt that inspections is not a popular war in Wainfleet.

"I've spoken with police and they hardly have any rights to go in and check on a place ... I don't know if we could, what our rights would be," she said.

Luey said inspections could put township staff at risk if they were to run up against criminal activity.

He suggested a neighbourhood community watch with people reporting any suspicious activity as an option.

Jeffs said township staff will consult with police and research the matter to see what can legally be done to prevent future grow-ops in Wainfleet.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca

## BUSINESS PROFILE

State of the Art Facility  
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**Lask Provision** is the Niagara Peninsula's only comprehensive refractive centre which deals with the treatment of common visual disorders. The centre was founded in its current location in 1999 and has evolved to a state of the art refractive centre with a global reputation for the laser correction of nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. It is a world leader in bringing the treatment of Zeiss Laser Blended Vision for the treatment of presbyopia "reading glasses vision" to North America. In addition, the centre specializes in the treatment of cataracts and corneal disorders such as keratoconus.

**Founder and medical director, Dr. Andrew W. Taylor, is one of North America's leading ophthalmologists in the use of excimer lasers in refractive surgery. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Toronto in 1981 and went on to complete a specialist residency in ophthalmology at the University of Toronto. He then went on to complete subspecialty training in corneal and refractive disorders. He has completed over 100,000 refractive procedures including laser, photorefractive keratectomy and contact surgery to date. In addition to his directorship role at Lask Provision, Dr. Taylor is an active staff member of The Niagara Health System in the Department of Ophthalmology.**

Lask Provision has evolved in its current location from its original incarnation as Lask Vision, which brought affordable laser eye surgery to North America. Dr. Taylor restructured Lask Vision in 2007 as a founding principal and owner of Lask MD, which then went on to expand refractive clinics across Canada. In 2008, Dr. Taylor left Lask MD to focus on more customized patient eye care. In addition to his base clinic in Niagara Falls, he underwent an international expansion to London, England, Brussels, Belgium and the United States. Currently, in addition to his clinic in Niagara Falls, Dr. Taylor is involved in the development of a comprehensive ophthalmic centre in Toronto.

"What is exciting now in refractive laser eye surgery is the safety of the procedure and the range of treatment options now available for patients. It is seen that a patient cannot benefit from refractive surgery," says Dr. Taylor. "The greatest development in recent years has been the use of the femtosecond laser for the creation of the flap upon which the laser procedure is based. Not only does this create a thinner and more uniform flap which leads to better optical outcomes, it alleviates the need for a blade and cutting microtomes which was for many patients the biggest hurdle preventing them from having refractive laser surgery. The safety factor is so great, I no longer utilize microkeratome blades in laser eye surgery." Dr. Taylor has extensive experience on several laser platforms. "While we started with the Bausch and Lomb platform in 1999, the industry has moved forward to provide greater customization for the unique optical errors of each individual patient. At Lask Provision, we have the WaveLight Allegretto platform but we are increasingly utilizing the Zeiss Meditec MEL 80 platform with the VisuMax femtosecond laser. "This platform in my belief delivers the optimal reshaping of the cornea to maintain the natural corneal shape for optimal optical correction and customization. Zeiss Laser Blended Vision is unique in the treatment of presbyopia or "reading glasses vision". It is the only excimer laser platform that predictably increases the range of vision so patients can see at near, intermediate and far without the loss of accommodation. This is truly exciting. Previously, and on other laser platforms, we could only treat with monovision with one eye corrected for far and one eye corrected for distance. This left patients with a loss of intermediate vision and reduced stereoacuity. It worked, but Zeiss Laser Blended Vision works so much better."

What is the future of refractive surgery? The future is continuing to refine the refractive outcome with ever safer and less invasive procedures. I am very excited that within the next year, we will begin to fully utilize the femtosecond laser's potential, going beyond the creation of the entire laser procedure within the cornea without a flap. This may sound like science fiction, but it is a reality and I am honoured that Zeiss has chosen to partner with Lask Provision in Niagara Falls to bring this technology to North America.

Dr. Andrew W. Taylor  
M.D. FRCPC  
Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine  
Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology

**LASK NIAGARA**

To obtain additional information or to book your **FREE** consultation please contact our refractive counselors at 1-888-510-2020 or 905-371-3217

You may visit our website at [www.laskprovision.com](http://www.laskprovision.com)

## FAIR

## RCMP Musical Ride wows crowd at Niagara Regional Exhibition

MARYANNE FIRTH  
QMI Agency Niagara

WELLAND — It was a triumphant return for Rebecca Ott.

The grandstand was packed and the crowd raring to go as the Welland-born Mounted Police took her position.

On her first tour with the RCMP Musical Ride, Ott, who was raised in Stevensville, was thrilled to be in Niagara.

And visitors to the 160th Niagara Regional Exhibition were just as thrilled to welcome her and the fellow members of her prestigious crew to town.

There wasn't an empty seat on the outdoor bleachers Saturday as anticipation grew for the first Musical Ride performance of the day.

Crowds cheered loudly as the 33 riders and their horses marched proudly onto the field, where they spent the

next hour creating eye-catching formations that undoubtedly require great skill and endless hours of training to perfect.

It's considered a great honour for officers to be chosen to participate in the Musical Ride, said Superintendent Marty Chesner, who led the group on Saturday.

It's a chance to represent not only the organization, but Canada," he said, listing the

many events the group has performed at including the Olympics and, most recently, Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee celebration in London.

While the Musical Ride spans the globe during its tours, the group always finds time to perform throughout its home country, including smaller cities like Welland.

Susan DeWaard was thankful for the visit.

The Port Colborne resident watched the performance

in awe alongside her daughter and grandchildren from Dunnville.

DeWaard was impressed by the precision involved in the intricate formations performed by the focused riders and their mounts.

She was also pleasantly surprised when the skilled dress came over to the crowd following the show for an up-close look and greet.

"The kids just loved it," said DeWaard's daughter

Dana Hauser, whose children eagerly petted the beautiful steeds.

"The ride is why we made the trip from Dunnville."

Hauser was confident the day is one her children will remember forever.

"When we come back (to the fair), they're going to say 'that's the place where we saw the Mounties,'" she said.

Maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca  
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■ **PLANNING:** Drive-thrus remain an issue

# Region poised to approve Port's Official Plan

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — The city is only a stamp of approval away from adopting a new Official Plan.

While council adopted it, the document must now go to the regional level for approval.

The Official Plan is

expected to go before regional council on Nov. 15 and if all goes as planned it could be in place as soon as mid-December.

The city adopted its Official Plan in 2006, but upon submitting the document to regional and provincial governments learned several revisions were necessary to ensure the plan

aligns with regional and provincial policy. City staff have since been working to revise, update and improve the adopted Official Plan, which led to the creation of the new 2012 plan.

The 2012 document, if approved, will replace Port Colborne's 1978 official plan.

When the plan was before

council, Scott Patterson of Kitchener-based Labreche Patterson and Associates brought forward concerns about a portion of the document that prohibits restaurants with drive-thru windows in the downtown core. He asked that the prohibitions be removed.

The comments made by Patterson, whose firm rep-

resents restaurants such as A&W and Wendy's, will be forwarded to the region along with the plan for review, said Dan Aguilina, the city's director of planning and development.

The region will decide whether to remove or retain the prohibitions in question after reviewing regional and provincial policy, he added.

The Official Plan is on the city's website, [www.portcolborne.ca](http://www.portcolborne.ca).

[maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca](mailto:maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca)  
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■ **HEALTH CARE:** Smith recommends QEW, Lyons Creek Rd. in Niagara Falls for new 'south Niagara' hospital site to replace Welland and Port Colborne hospitals

# No new hospital here for Port Colborne

RAY SPITERI  
QMI Agency/Niagara

NIAGARA FALLS — A new hospital for south Niagara will be built in Niagara Falls, said Niagara Health System supervisor Kevin Smith.

That hospital, he says, would replace aging hospitals in Welland, Port Colborne, Port Erie, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Exactly where, and whether the provincial government will endorse his recommendation, is unclear.

On Friday, Smith's final report to Ontario's health minister was made public.

Smith recommends a hospital be built near the QEW and Lyons Creek Rd. in southwest Niagara Falls.

"I recognize constructing a new southern site is a challenging recommendation, especially in the backdrop of the fiscal pressures facing our province and country," Smith wrote in his report to Health Minister Deb Matthews.

"I believe, however, Niagara is a unique situation which offers significant opportunities to improve how we care for patients and families, the quality of work life and retention/recruitment of qualified staff, and the education and training of future health professionals in partnership with our university and college partners."

He said a new hospital offers "significant operating and ongoing capital savings."

"That being said, my appointment was not about 'bricks and mortar' but

a loss of community confidence (in the NHS). Such a commitment from the province must

be as a result of having created a well governed and managed hospital system with high community support and workplace satisfaction.

"I know you will be looking for actions and outcomes to demonstrate this healthy evolution. Moving a broken culture into a new home is simply not a solution."

The province appointed Smith,

also president and CEO of St. Joseph's Health System in Hamilton, as supervisor of the NHS in August 2011. The appointment was intended to fix a lack of public confidence in the NHS.

After making his interim report public earlier this year, Smith asked Niagara Region's chairman and south Niagara mayors to recommend a location for a south Niagara hospital. They came up with Lyons Creek Rd. and the QEW, as well as East Main St. and Hwy. 140 in Welland.

Smith chose Niagara Falls after consulting with an expert planner.

He said a "collection of issues," one being how best to transfer patients to medical facilities, led to his decision.

There would be "additional time" in transferring patients if the Welland area was chosen, said Smith.

He doesn't have a specific property in mind. He said if the ministry decides in his favour, the ultimate property should be chosen based on

"road dynamics," easy access on and off the highway and suitable parking options.

Smith also recommends there be two urgent care centres south of Niagara to complement the hospital.

"We looked at some distance issues ... volume issues. The volume will be there (to support two urgent care centres). There will have to be ... more integration with primary care teams and the hours of operation should be looked at to suit best medical practice."

The preferred locations have not been selected, but he recommends they not be at any existing NHS facility, and best serve the south Niagara communities that won't have the new hospital.

Smith recommends closing pediatrics and maternity wards in Niagara Falls and Welland, temporarily moving those services to the new St. Catharines hospital, scheduled to open this coming spring. If a south Niagara hospital is built, those services should relocate there.

He said many local obstetricians, gynecologists and pediatricians did not approve of that recommendation, but several of the world's leading experts did.

At 17 receiving Smith's final report earlier this week, Matthews and her Liberal government will decide what, if any, of the recommendations will be implemented.

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## ■ HEALTH CARE

# Location concerns

DAVE JOHNSON  
QMI Agency/Niagara

PORT COLBORNE — Locating a new "south Niagara" hospital in Niagara Falls is "absolutely absurd," says Mayor Vance Badway.

Badway was reacting to a report from Kevin Smith — the supervisor appointed the province to oversee Niagara Health System — released Friday that recommends a new hospital be built at the QEW and Lyons Creek Rd.

"Quite frankly, it's absolutely absurd that a new hospital be built in the northern part of the region," said Badway.

Like Welland Mayor April Jeffs, he considers south Niagara to consist of Port Erie, Port Colborne, Welland, Pelham and Wainfleet.

Port Colborne's mayor said the city, along with local doctors and clinics, have been doing a lot of work to enhance primary health care in Niagara and align it with his city's urgent care centre.

"We've been working with all of south Niagara ... health care shouldn't have boundaries."

The mayor said it's why the city created South Niagara Health Corp., which has Fort Erie, Wainfleet and Welland councils make recommendations to come on board. Badway said Pelham has been invited to join as well, but has yet to make a decision.

Port Colborne will continue to work on enhancing primary care and will be able to put forth a solid, credible position, Badway said, on where a new hospital should be built.

"I respect Dr. Smith, but he's only been here a year ... we've been working on this for four years," he said.

A new south Niagara hospital located in Niagara Falls could "very well be the second mistake made in Niagara with respect to location" for a hospital, said Badway referring to the West St. Catharines hospital and cancer centre site.

The mayor said even if Niagara Falls were part of south Niagara, locating a new hospital at Lyons Creek Rd. and the QEW still wouldn't make sense.

"Forget all the municipal boundaries, look at the centre of south Niagara. The most appropriate place to build the hospital would be the most central location, Hwy. 140 and East Main St.," said Badway, adding he believes other south Niagara mayors would agree with him.

Jeffs said the location proposed by Smith is a losing one for Wainfleet residents.

"Residents have said to me all along, 'How does a hospital in Niagara Falls make sense?' It's not fair to the rest of the municipalities ... we're all going to suffer, it's frustrating. My residents are going to be mad."

If the province moves forward with a new hospital in Niagara Falls, Jeffs said urgent care centres proposed by Smith in his report should include at least one located closer to Wainfleet.

"That still doesn't do anything for us for critical care."

Jeffs said she'd join forces with whoever wants to fight against the proposal to "right this wrong."

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn was still working his way through the

lengthy report when contacted Friday afternoon.

The location chosen for the proposed hospital is one of two suggested sites that south Niagara mayors came up with, said Augustyn. The mayors, he added, worked with Niagara EMS and people at the region in the transportation and GIS departments.

"That site will be complemented by two urgent care sites in Niagara, as opposed to the one in Smith's interim report," he said, hoping at least one would be located close to Pelham.

Augustyn also said Pelham residents may gravitate toward the new St. Catharines hospital rather than the proposed one in Niagara Falls.

One thing the mayor was glad to see in Smith's report is obstetric and pediatric departments being part of a new Niagara Falls hospital.

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### ■ RETIREE RECOGNIZED



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Port Colborne's recently-retired manager of community services Gary Makins, centre, was recognized for his service to the city at the Sept. 10 council meeting. Makins is flanked by the city's new manager of community services Harry Hakim, left, and Mayor Vance Badaway, right.

### ■ CELEBRATING A CENTENNIAL



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Nola Corey, Janice Taylor and Jackie Hopkins organized a luncheon to help celebrate DeWitt Carter school's 100th anniversary. A number of events around the anniversary have been held. The luncheon was held Thursday at Port Colborne Country Club.

■ **ENERGY:** Utility poles necessary for Wainfleet wind turbines

# Aldermen feel strong-armed by Hydro One

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Hydro One will be allowed to install utility poles along an unopened road allowance in Wainfleet, but aldermen want it known they're permitting the action "under duress."

Hydro One made a request to have the poles installed on Side Rd. 22 earlier this year, council heard last week from township CAO Scott Luey.

The poles will be used to transfer power generated by Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc.'s wind turbines, proposed to be placed on land off of Side Rd. 22, into the hydro grid.

Earlier this year, council turned down a request by Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc. and IPC Energy, working on behalf of the Wainfleet company and its new partner Rankin Renewable Power Inc., to open the section of Side Rd. 22, between Abbey Rd. and Concession 1, for its use to work on the project.

Luey said a Hydro One representative had visited council and asked for its approval to install the poles. Council denied the request.

But Greg Wulsmann, Wainfleet's director of operations, said Hydro One mentioned that if the pole installation faced any undue delay and the utility company experienced damages due to not being able to fulfil its contractual agreements with Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc., it could sue the township.

Luey said Hydro One has made the request at least three times now and believes it has the right to go in and install the poles without Wainfleet's approval.

Ald. Richard Dykstra wondered why the power company kept asking council when the request keeps being denied.



Luey



Konc

"If they have a right to do it, why don't they just do it?" he asked.

Luey said Hydro One and the township have always had a good working relationship and believed it did not want to escalate things if it could be avoided.

Mayor April Jeffs said it's pretty clear the township doesn't want the wind turbine project, but its fight is not with Hydro One.

She believed the power company doesn't want to fight with the township over the poles and cost it money. The mayor suggested council set a stipulation as to what side of the road the poles go on and allow them to be placed.

Ald. Betty Konc didn't want the poles under any conditions, and suggested council was being strong-armed by Hydro One.

Still, Konc and the rest of council did agree to send a letter to Hydro One allowing it to place the poles on the road, but with the stipulation they be placed on a specific side.

Council also wanted the letter to stress the township felt it was being forced into the decision.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca



MIKE DIBATTISTA/QMI Agency Niagara

Pictured are Hydro One's Sir Adam Beck 1 and Sir Adam Beck 2 generating stations. Hydro One was seeking utility pole installation along an unopened road allowance in Wainfleet.

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■ **PLANNING:** Alderman suggests that one day the township's motto may no longer have meaning

# Wainfleet agricultural land disappearing: Dykstra

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

**WAINFLEET** — Ald. Richard Dykstra doesn't want to see Wainfleet farmland opened up for development and isn't pleased with the direction taken by fellow council members at its last meeting.

Township council was discussing its modified official plan when Dykstra, a cash crop farmer, proposed changing to agricultural a number of properties

classified with a rural designation.

The alderman wants to protect farmland and add more to Wainfleet's inventory, but his effort was defeated.

Aldermen said it wouldn't be fair to property owners to change designations without notice.

Yet council then changed two properties that were classified as agricultural to rural.

A rural designation allows for more potential uses for

a property than does an agricultural designation.

"I thought we were trying to preserve our agricultural land and rural roots," Dykstra said.

He said Wainfleet farmland is not land for development.

Land that should be developed in the township include the hamlet areas, such as the Wainfleet village itself, Burnaby, Winger and Wellandport.

"The hamlet areas aren't being developed right now... we're seeing zero growth," he said, adding there's room to build in each and that it makes more sense to build in those locations.

With the official plan looking at development overall for the next 20 years, and a review every

five years, Dykstra said if there were no room left in the hamlets to grow, then council could start to look at rural land.

"I'm not anti-development, I'm for smart development. I know we need development to increase our tax base."

The alderman said he wasn't trying to "pull a fast one" on the owners of the properties he wanted to change. He said it made sense for them to be designated as agricultural and, despite soil classifications, the lands could be farmed.

As for the lands his fellow



Dykstra

alderman did change, he said it made sense for them to remain agricultural as both about land which is actively farmed.

The problem, he added, is that people come into Wainfleet and buy large acreages hoping to one day turn the land into a subdivision or developable property. The lands they buy, Dykstra said, are usually on gravel roads that people want paved.

He said if the trend continues there won't be any countryside left in Wainfleet and the township motto of "Wainfleet - find your countryside!" will no longer be valid.

"Agriculture is the No. 1 industry in Wainfleet and we need to preserve what we have today."

With a growing popu-

lation in Niagara and the world, agricultural land is needed to feed people. And with a brand new biodiesel plant being built in Welland, crops such as corn and soy will be needed for the facility and land will be needed to grow those crops.

As for the lands Dykstra had proposed changing, he said he had no interest in renting or buying them for his own cash crop production.

"I'm pro agriculture and connected to the agricultural community who said we needed these lands to farm. I'm not in this for Richard Dykstra, I'm in this for Wainfleet and for looking out for the community."

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca

**"I'm pro agriculture and connected to the agricultural community who said we needed these lands to farm. I'm not in this for Richard Dykstra, I'm in this for Wainfleet and for looking out for the community."**

Richard Dykstra

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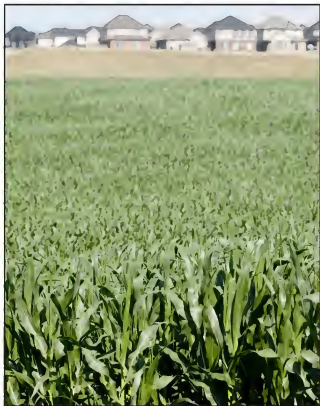
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CRAIG GLOVER File Photo

Ald. Richard Dykstra doesn't want to see Wainfleet farmland opened up for development.

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#### ■ BOOT DRIVE



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port Colborne Professional Fire Fighter Association Local 2307 are holding a Boot Drive each Friday throughout September at Port Colborne's Market Square. From left, firefighters Doug Steers, Dave Radzikowski, Terry Czerleau and Brandon Chevalier.

#### ■ sportsbriefs

##### GATORS LOSE OPENER TO SAINT PAUL PATRIOTS

PORT COLBORNE — "Penalties of aggression" and a Saint Paul safety's excellent play on the final play of the game prevented Lakeshore Catholic from kicking off the senior quad A high school football season with a road win.

Though down 21-17 to the Patriots with under two minutes to go, the visiting Gators nearly went the distance of the field for a game-winning touchdown after intercepting a Saint Paul pass. Lakeshore quarterback Jeremy Snyder had a "sure touchdown" thwarted when a Patriots safety got his finger on his attempted pass to Cole Majors at the last second.

"It was as thrilling game, it came right down to the final play," Bernie Tessier said after losing in his debut as Gators head coach in Friday night's 21-17 loss at Mitchellson Park in Niagara Falls. Lakeshore jumped out to a 17-7 lead and appeared headed for a win before running into penalty trouble.

"We controlled the play the entire game, but we made a lot of mental mistakes and lost a lot of ground on a ton of penalties," said Tessier, who succeeds Canadian Football League hall of famer Rocky DiPietro as the Gators coach.

He blamed the infractions on emotional play on his team's part rather than first-game jitters.

"We gained a step by making a great play and then we'd lose two steps on a penalty. We have to control our emotion and play with more discipline."

Mack Jones, on a 20-yard run; and Majors, on a 30-yard pass from Snyder; scored touchdowns for the Gators who also got points on a safety and a single on Majors' kick into the end zone.

Lakeshore's next game is Friday in a 3:30 p.m. start at home against 1-0 Saint Michael.

##### NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

WELLAND — It's that time of year again, time to begin thinking about the teams and individuals whose achievements, on and off the field, deserve to be honoured on the Welland Sports Wall of Fame.

Submissions are now being accepted for the Class of 2013 that will be inducted into Welland's sports shrine in May.

Nomination forms are available at the Welland Community Wellness Complex, formerly the Rose City Seniors Activity Centre, at 145 Lincoln St., from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m., Monday to Friday; 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Saturdays and from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Sundays.

Individuals can be nominated in the athlete or builder category.

To be considered for induction, submissions needed to be accompanied by supporting documentation, such as newspaper clippings.

##### SPORTS DAY ON TAP

PORT COLBORNE — A Canadian Olympic athlete will discuss what it takes to compete in sports at the highest level when Lakeshore Catholic High celebrates Sports Day in Canada with a morning assembly this Friday.

The assembly is scheduled to get underway at 8:15 with Grade 9 students taking part in activities beginning at 9:05.

##### CALLING ALL PLAYERS

WELLAND — Tryouts will be soon be held for a select girls under-14 basketball teams.

All girls born in 1999 are eligible to try out for the Welland Warriors major bantam that will be playing Division 1 travel basketball this fall.

Contact Whitney Gorges at 905-321-0371 or by e-mail at [whs\\_25@hotmail.com](mailto:whs_25@hotmail.com) for more information.

— Bernd Franke



■ **BOIL-WATER ADVISORY AREA:** Proposals requested

# Wainfleet seeking septic system inspectors

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

**WAINFLEET** — The township's mandatory on-site sewage system inspection program is one step closer to being implemented after council passed a report on a request for proposals.

Firms interested in carrying out the work in Wainfleet have until Thursday, Oct. 11, at 2 p.m. to submit them. The proposals will be reviewed by township staff, which will then make a presentation to an ad-hoc selection committee.

Each firm that applies will be judged on criteria such as records keeping, enforcement, inspection process, project manager(s) and qualified staff, project understanding and work plan experience with private sewage system inspections and more.

Ald. Betty Konec wanted to know what would happen if there was a tie in the criteria between companies.

Director of operations Greg Wuisman said if there was a tie between two firms the selection committee would reassess those two firms alone.

"We'd have an elimination round," he said.

Konec asked Wuisman whether contractors would bill the township for the work, with the township then billing the homeowner, making for a possible extra step and cost for property owners.

He said staff will ask those who submit proposals whether they intended to bill the township or the property owners themselves. Wuisman said he'd expect higher costs if the companies had to invoice property owners themselves.

The fees for the sewage inspection would be less, he said, if the companies relied on the township to bill property owners. With the township billing the work, there would be some extra work for staff, but, Wuisman added, it would also be better enforcement.

"If we bill and there is non-payment, we can apply the charge to property taxes ... the contractor would not have the luxury of that item."

Konec also questioned the number of homes that could be subject to the inspections. The inspections will be carried out in the lakeshore area of the township, which is everything south of the Gord Harry Trail to Lake Erie and from the Port Colborne to Haldimand County border.

The alderman estimated there were about 1,300 homes in the area, not 1,200 as mentioned in the staff report.

Wuisman said with homes that

**“If we bill and there is non-payment, we can apply the charge to property taxes ... the contractor would not have the luxury of that item.”**

Director of operations Greg Wuisman

have had an inspection or new septic system in the last three years being exempt from the process, he expected the numbers to be a lot lower.

Mayor April Jeffs was concerned over the shortlisting of companies and said residents might have an issue if staff only were to choose.

In the report, a special council

meeting, open to the public, was set for Friday Nov. 2, at 9 a.m.

Jeffs suggested the special council meeting still be held, but that a public meeting be set for the Saturday to allow more residents to attend.

A final report on the company chosen will go before council at its Tuesday, Nov. 13 meeting.

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Konec



Wuisman

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## ■ BUSINESS OF THE QUARTER HONOURED



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo

Robert Hesp of Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce, left, presents Alfred Kiers and his wife Ann Kiers, of Railroad Gardens, with a business-of-the-quarter award. Alfred Kiers was honoured for his family-run business, his volunteerism and long-standing involvement in the community.

## ■ AVIVA COMMUNITY FUND: \$100,000 sought for performance venue

## Funds sought for market square

MARYANNE FIRTH  
inPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Aviva Insurance could set the stage for changes to Port Colborne's market square.

After receiving approval from council, an application will be put forth to the Aviva Community Fund requesting \$100,000 to build a community stage at market square's King George Park.

The stage was included in market changes proposed in Port Colborne's downtown community improvement plan, though no funds are available in the municipality's budget to see the project move forward at this time.

A steering committee was created in June to determine a project worthy of the ACE. The committee, comprising Mark Robinson, who pitched the idea to council, Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet and Port Colborne regional Coun. Dave Barrick, is looking to apply to the funding competition by the end of September.



Doucet

Barrick

Aviva has committed \$1 million to be shared among 30 communities from across Canada. Communities can request upward of \$150,000 per project.

Proposals undergo two rounds of public voting between October and November, which they must survive to be named finalists in the competition. Voting accounts for 20% of the selection process.

Aviva is putting focus on projects that speak to youth at risk, Robinson said. As a stage would welcome musical and theatrical performances by people of all ages, he feels it's a proper fit and will give the city

a good shot of getting funded.

A detailed proposal outlining the design of the stage and cost of construction is not needed until after the application is approved, Robinson said.

As no funds are available in the city's budget, the stage will only be created if Aviva funds the entire build, he stressed.

The project must be completed by Dec. 31, 2013.

Some concerns were raised by councillors over whether the stage would be well-utilized, what the cost of maintenance would be, and if it would interfere with the set-up at Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival.

Despite initial worries, councillors voted 6-2 to move forward with the application to first see if the proposal is approved before hammering out the details.

For more information on the Aviva Community Fund, visit [www.avivacommunityfund.org](http://www.avivacommunityfund.org).

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■ **ROSELAWN:** New season around the corner

# Reading series lineup will have fans delighted

**NICOLE LEJEUNE**  
For InPort News

**PORT COLBORNE** — It seems that the organizers of the Canadian Authors Reading Series have been

busy since we last saw them in May.

With a new season just around the corner, series subscribers can finally get a taste of who is in store for them.

By the looks of things, this season is shaping up to be one of the best yet.

**Michael Bryant** will be welcomed to the Roselawn stage Sept. 27 with his book *28 Seconds*. Bryant is prob-

ably most recognized as being the province's youngest attorney general. A Harvard graduate, he led a prominent political career as a member of Dalton McGuinty's cabinet. After

a car crash involving the death of a bicycle courier in 2009, the media blew up around Bryant. The charges against Bryant have since been withdrawn but the former AG has decided to

speak out for the first time in detail in *28 Seconds* about the events surrounding the accident and his personal struggles.

see **AUTHOR SERIES** | page 22



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## ■ AUTHOR SERIES

# New season brings familiar faces

FROM PAGE 21

Gordon Pinsent is no stranger to Canadian audiences; the actor has been seen performing on film, television and the stage since the 1960s. What better way to remember such a fascinating career than to share those memories with the public. Oct. 24 will have Pinsent presenting his memoirs titled *Next*; a very interesting account of his life and also a unique look behind the Canadian entertainment industry's curtain.

The famously hilarious improv actor best known for the British and U.S. versions of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, Colin Mochrie will be showcasing something a little different than what his fans are used to. Not Quite the Classics is Mochrie's contribution to written humour, as he uses the first and last lines from familiar classics and re-imagines everything in between.

Nov. 29 will be a night to remember as Mochrie will change the way audiences imagine classic stories such as *The Cat in the Hat* and guarantees they'll never be read the same way again.

Subscribers will take a trip down memory lane Feb. 28 with **Jian Ghomeshi** as the CBC broadcaster takes a look back on his self with his book *1982*. A funny account as Ghomeshi recalls a year of his life as a teenage new-waver, bad hair styles and all. As Ghomeshi has proven to viewers time and time again he's a great storyteller, now add music from the 1980s and the crazy styles to the mix and the results of 1982 are sure to have audiences recalling some candid memories of their own.

**Miranda Hill** will be reading from her first work of fiction titled *Sleeping Funny* on March 28. Audience members were introduced to Hill briefly last season when her husband Lawrence Hill took the Roselawn stage as the season's final author. The same night it was rumoured that Hill may also present at the series. Now thankfully, audiences can finally get a formal introduction. *Sleeping Funny* is a collection of nine short stories described by Hill as "something a little odd, a little otherworldly." It's

definitely the type of book that lingers with its readers long after it's finished but it's doubtful anyone will mind.

For more than 40 years, **Lloyd Robertson** has been delivering the news to living rooms across Canada; sharing tales from local successes to huge international affairs. As CTV's front-running broadcaster, Robertson has seen his share of sad and happy endings, but luckily for the Canadians who have grown up watching Robertson, his story doesn't end there. Having recently retired as CTV's nightly news anchor, Robertson has compiled his memories, observations and some hilarious anecdotes about his career in his book appropriately titled *The Kind of Life It's Been*. Robertson will be sharing some of his own stories with series subscribers on April 25; definitely an evening not to be missed.

When thinking about seriously talented Canadians, **Don Harron's** name might not be the first one to come to mind—but it should. Whether performing on various television shows such as *Hee Haw* and *The Red Green Show*, writing lyrics for musicals including *Anne of Green Gables* or writing 15 books (yes, you read that correctly, 15 books), Harron always seems to be having a blast. His 16th and newest book is a little different for the author but is sure to pique just as much interest. *My Double Life* is Harron's journey through an incredible career spanning more than 50 years, including memories as a money-making 10-year-old to an accomplished Shakespearean performer; Harron always manages to put his own spin on things. As the final author for this season's Canadian Authors Reading Series, Harron is sure to make the evening a memorable one.

People interested in purchasing memberships to the reading series or who wish to attend specific readings may contact and leave a message for Linda at 905-835-2839.


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Lloyd Robertson.

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Colin Mochrie.

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Miranda Hill.

VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo



Gordon Pinsent.

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Jian Ghomeshi.

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## ■ SENIOR MEDICAL STUDENTS STUDY UNDER DR. REMINGTON



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Port Colborne physician Dr. Jeff Remington is flanked by senior medical students Alexander Melinshtyn, left, and Charlene Antony, who are in the lakeside city studying under Remington and Dr. Derek Rivers for the next few weeks.

## ■ GAZEBO CONSTRUCTION DONATION



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

The Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Fatima Council No. 3732, donates \$5,000 to the City of Port Colborne for construction of a steel gazebo at Lock 8 Park. Pictured from left are Harry Hakim, the city's new manager of community services; Ron Hanson, the city's director of engineering and operations; Knights of Columbus treasurer Bert Dekker and Port Colborne Mayor Vance Badaway.

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■ **OFFICIAL PLAN:** More land in hamlet areas

# Augustine Reeb road allowance won't be sold

DAVE JOHNSON  
QMI Agency Niagara

**WAINFLEET** — Two areas Niagara Region wanted left out of Wainfleet's hamlet areas will be included in the township's Official Plan.

Planner Grant Munday said any future development in areas at Ostryhyn Corners and Wellandport can be dealt with

at the local level if any proposals to use the land come forward.

During his presentation on the modified Official Plan, Munday said the Wellandport hamlet area was approved by the previous council after being recommended by the previous planner.

"We need to establish more lands in hamlets to accommodate growth inside, rather than

outside of them," said Munday.

The issue of unopened road allowances also came up during Munday's report.

Council had been talking about selling an unopened road allowance — Augustine Reeb Rd. — off of Lakeshore Rd. to neighbouring property owners.

The idea met with opposition from many Wainfleet residents. Ald. Ted Hessels has been in

favour of selling the land to gain some money for the township that could be used for future purchases or to upgrade other road allowances. Hessels also said access to the waterfront across the road allowance there was very difficult.

The alderman wanted the possibility of selling road allowances left open in the Official Plan in case a future opportu-

nity arose.

Munday said through visioning sessions and public meetings, residents expressed the desire to have more access to waterfront land.

"The desire of the public was to stop politicians who may only be for a certain period of time from selling a piece of land that could be an asset to the township," the planner said.

Munday said no matter what council sold the property for, it would never get a piece of waterfront land for what it could sell the road allowance for.

Council did not change the official plan when it came to road allowance, but decided it could deal with the Augustine Reeb Rd. issue through encroachment agreements with neighbouring property owners.



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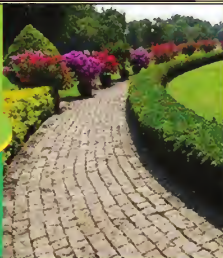


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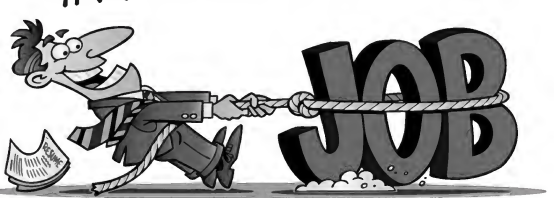
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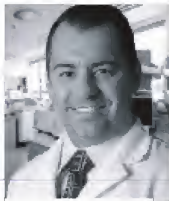
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